

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

UNCLAS STATE 204270

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, GT, NU

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY ABOUT TRADE UNIONISTS

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN DONALD M. FRASER OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO LOOK INTO THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE CONGRESSMAN'S LETTER AND REPORT WHATEVER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT.

2. QUOTE: THE HONORABLE ROBERT J. MCCLOSKEY, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS, DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT THREE TRADE UNIONISTS OF GUATEMALA HAVE BEEN DETAINED: ISMAEL BARRIOS, SECRETARY OF ORGANIZATION OF THE CNT (NATIONAL FEDERATION OF LABOR), ADAN ESTRADA MENCHU, AND A VISITING NICARAGUAN TRADE
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UNION LEADER DONALD CASTILLO. IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT

THESE LEADERS HAVE BEEN SEVERELY MALTREATED WHILE UNDER
DETENTION AND HAVE BEEN DENIED MEDICAL TREATMENT.

I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD INQUIRE INTO THIS
SITUATION AND IF OUR AMBASSADOR IN GUATEMALA WOULD DISCUSS
THIS MATTER WITH THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. WOULD YOU
KINDLY SEND A COPY OF YOUR REPLY TO ME TO DAVID HAWK,
DIRECTOR, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL U.S.A., 2112 BROADWAY,
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10023.

YOUR KIND ATTENTION IN THIS MATTER WILL BE MOST
APPRECIATED.

SINCERELY YOURS,

DONALD M. FRASER
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. UNQUOTE.

3. EMBASSY/MANAGUA COMMENTS ON CASTILLO WOULD BE
APPRECIATED. KISSINGER

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